

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
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4. (Cancelled)
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7. (Cancelled)
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12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Currently amended) A method of treating a wound to promote wound healing, the method comprising:

providing a fluid flow path, the fluid flow path comprising a conformable wound dressing, having a backing layer forming a ~~relatively~~ fluid-tight seal over a wound, the backing layer comprising a wound-facing face, a fluid supply tube, and a fluid offtake tube; moving fluid from a fluid reservoir through the fluid flow path; regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube; and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube; wherein fluid is moved through the fluid flow path to provide simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound; and

wherein fluid moving through the fluid flow path is regulated to hold negative pressure on the wound at a steady level while providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound.

~~wherein regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube is independent of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube.~~

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein both regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprise regulating the amount of fluid with a pump.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprises regulating the amount of fluid with a variable speed pump.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube and regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprises regulating the amount of fluid with a regulator.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the regulator is a valve.

20. (Currently amended) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising:

a backing layer capable of forming a ~~relatively~~ fluid-tight seal over a wound;

a fluid supply tube arranged to provide fluid from a fluid reservoir to the wound;

a fluid offtake tube arranged to withdraw fluid from the wound;

a pump in communication with at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube and configured to move fluid through at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube;

a regulator in communication with at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube and configured to at least regulate the rate of fluid flowing through at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube; and

a pressure monitor configured to monitor negative pressure under the backing layer;

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound such that fluid may be supplied to ~~fill the fluid flow-path~~ the wound from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube while fluid is aspirated through the fluid offtake tube; and

wherein, based on the monitored negative pressure, the regulator is configured to hold negative pressure on the wound at a steady level while simultaneous aspiration and irrigation is provided to the wound.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the regulator is a valve.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the pump is in communication with the fluid supply tube and is configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube, and the regulator is in communication with the fluid offtake tube and is configured to regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid offtake tube.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the pump is in communication with the fluid supply tube and is configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube, and the regulator is a second pump in communication with the fluid offtake tube and configured to regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid offtake tube and to move fluid through the fluid offtake tube.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the regulator is a pump.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the regulator is a variable speed pump

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein at least one of the pump and the second pump comprises a fixed-speed pump.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein:

the pump is in communication with the fluid supply tube and is configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube;

the regulator comprises a second pump in communication with the fluid offtake tube and configured to move fluid through the fluid offtake tube; and

the regulator is configured to regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid offtake tube.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the regulator comprises a valve configured to vent the wound from atmosphere.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the pressure monitor is connected to a monitor offtake tube.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the regulator comprises a bleed regulator on a bleed tube connected to the monitor offtake tube and configured to regulate the rate of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a non-return valve in communication with the fluid supply tube and configured to avoid overpressure on the wound.

32. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein regulating fluid moving through the fluid flow path to hold negative pressure on the wound at a steady level while providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound comprises monitoring negative pressure under the backing layer.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising adjusting negative pressure in response to monitoring negative pressure under the backing layer.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the negative pressure is monitored under the backing layer with a pressure monitor connected to a monitor offtake tube.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube by operating a bleed regulator on a bleed tube connected to the monitor offtake tube.

36. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube comprises operating a bleed regulator connected to the fluid flow path.

37. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid supply tube is independent of regulating the amount of fluid that flows through the fluid offtake tube.

38. (New) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising:

a backing layer capable of forming a fluid-tight seal over a wound;

a manifold member positionable under the backing layer, the manifold member comprising one or more conduits extending in a radial direction away from a middle portion of the manifold member;

a fluid supply tube arranged to provide fluid from a fluid reservoir to the wound;

a fluid offtake tube arranged to withdraw fluid from the wound;

a pressure monitor configured to monitor negative pressure under the backing layer;

a first pump in communication with the fluid offtake tube and configured to move fluid through the fluid offtake tube;

a second pump in communication with the fluid supply tube and configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube; and

a regulator in communication with the fluid offtake tube and the pressure monitor and configured regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid offtake tube;

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound such that fluid may be supplied to the wound from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube while fluid is aspirated through the fluid offtake tube; and

wherein the regulator is further configured to hold negative pressure on the wound at a steady level while simultaneous aspiration and irrigation is provided to the wound.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising a second regulator in communication with the fluid supply tube and configured regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid supply tube.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the second pump is a variable-speed pump configured to move fluid through the fluid supply tube and to regulate the rate of fluid flowing through the fluid supply tube.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each of the one or more conduits comprises at least one opening, the openings being in communication with the fluid supply tube and the wound so that fluid can be communicated through the openings to the wound.

42. (New) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising:

a backing layer capable of forming a fluid-tight seal over a wound;

a manifold member positionable beneath the backing layer and comprising a plurality of separate flow channels radiating from a middle portion of the manifold member, wherein the flow channels each have at least one opening therein, the openings being in communication with the flow channels and the wound;

wound filler positionable beneath the backing layer;

a fluid supply tube arranged to provide fluid from a fluid reservoir to the wound and having an end portion mounted adjacent to the middle portion of the manifold member;

a fluid offtake tube arranged to withdraw fluid from the wound and having an end portion mounted adjacent to the middle portion of the manifold member so that the fluid offtake tube is in communication with the plurality of flow channels;

a pump in communication with at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube and configured to move fluid through at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube;

a regulator in communication with at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube and configured to at least regulate the rate of fluid flowing through at least one of the fluid supply tube and the fluid offtake tube; and

a pressure monitor configured to monitor negative pressure under the backing layer;

wherein the apparatus is configured to provide simultaneous aspiration and irrigation to the wound such that fluid may be supplied to the wound from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube while fluid is aspirated through the fluid offtake tube; and

wherein, based on the monitored negative pressure, the regulator is configured to hold negative pressure on the wound at a steady level while simultaneous aspiration and irrigation is provided to the wound.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the manifold member further comprises a plurality of supply channels radiating from the middle portion of the manifold member, wherein the supply channels each have at least one opening therein so that the fluid supply tube is in communication with the plurality of supply channels.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the wound filler is foam.